



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
CIVIL WORKS  
108 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUL 14 2008

Mr. Billy Orr  
President  
Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood  
and Drainage Control District  
Post Office Box 320069  
Flowood, Mississippi 39232-0069

Dear Mr. Orr:

It was a pleasure to meet you and your associates on May 22, 2008 to discuss the Pearl River flood damage reduction project in Jackson, Mississippi. Your follow-up letter of June 4, 2008, requested clarification of several issues related to the project authorization contained in Section 3104 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, as well as the reprogramming of funds for the project.

Although a Pearl River project was authorized by Congress, the feasibility level of detail decision document and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document have as yet not been completed for the proposed work. Therefore, I am currently unable to support your request that this project proceed to the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase. A decision document should be prepared in accordance with Army Corps of Engineers policies and procedures contained in Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100. This document is needed to identify the national economic development (NED) plan and any locally preferred plan (LPP), determine whether the LPP is environmentally acceptable and technically feasible, and compare the level of flood damage reduction benefits provided by the LPP and the NED plan. The report must also document all features that would not produce NED benefits greater than costs. Once this document is completed, it would need to be submitted to my office for approval.

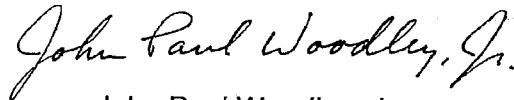
If the LPP is recommended for construction, the Federal share of the project would be limited to the Federal share of the NED plan, in accordance with the cost sharing provisions of WRDA 1986, as amended. Economic justification of the LPP is not a requirement for the project sponsor to undertake the LPP; however, in order for the Corps to consider either the NED plan or the LPP for implementation, the decision document must show that the project would meet all budgetary criteria for construction initiation and the project must compete for funding with other Civil Works projects. As required by the authorizing legislation, I would have to evaluate the supporting documentation to determine whether the LPP provides an equal or greater level of flood protection than the

NED plan, and whether the LPP is environmentally acceptable and technically feasible. I want to let you know that I have been advised by the Corps that the LPP could have significantly greater environmental impacts than the NED plan, which may make the LPP difficult to implement.

Concerning your request to reprogram funds, I have asked the Corps to evaluate whether surplus General Investigations funds are available for reprogramming to this project to allow completion of the feasibility phase decision document. In accordance with Section 101(a)(6) of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2008, notification of the Congressional Committees on Appropriations may be required if funds are available. A decision to accept advance funds for this project beyond the feasibility phase would be made after the Administration has taken a position on the decision document for the project.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Mr. Zoltan L. Montvai, P.E., Civil Deputy for the Mississippi Valley Division Regional Integration Team at (202) 761-4495.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Paul Woodley, Jr.".

John Paul Woodley, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)